

JUNE 28, 2002

N E W S

For Immediate Release

LOUISIANA CROP ACREAGE

Wet weather in March slowed corn planting and extremely dry conditions in early summer delayed cotton planting. The net result was that many producers switched to soybeans. As of June 1, Louisiana farmers had planted more corn, soybeans, and winter wheat acreage than in 2001. Cotton, rice, sorghum, and sweetpotatoes acreages have decreased from 2001, according to Dave Frank, State Statistician for the Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service.

Sugarcane acreage for harvest is estimated at 495,000, unchanged from last year. This ties last year's record for the largest sugarcane acreage ever recorded in the state. Louisiana continues to lead the nation in harvested sugarcane acreage.

Cotton planted acreage is expected to decrease to 580,000 acres, down 290,000 acres from last year and down 80,000 acres from the March 1 intentions figure.

Rice planted acreage is expected to decrease to 520,000, bringing acreage down 28,000 acres, or 5 percent below last year. Of this total, long grain varieties will represent 510,000 acres or 98 percent, while medium grain varieties will represent the remaining 10,000 acres or 2 percent.

Soybean planted acreage is expected to total 800,000 acres, 160,000 more acres than last year, and 150,000 acres above the March 1 intentions estimate.

Corn planted acreage, at 500,000 acres, is down 70,000 from the March 1 intentions estimate, but up 185,000 acres from 2001.

Sweet potato planted acreage, at 21,000, is down 3,000 acres or 12 percent below a year ago.

Grain sorghum planted acreage, at 200,000 acres, is down 30,000 acres or 13 percent below last year.

Winter wheat planted acreage is expected to increase to 180,000 acres, up 5,000 acres from last year.

All hay harvested, is unchanged from last year at 450,000 acres. Prior to last year, harvested hay acreage has not been this high in the state since 1964.

June 1, 2002 - Planted Acreage

Crop	Louisiana			United States		
	2001	2002	% Change	2001	2002	% Change
	-----Thousand Acres-----			-----Thousand Acres-----		
Corn	315	500	+59	75,752	78,947	+4
Upland Cotton	870	580	-33	15,499	14,151	-9
Rice	548	520	-5	3,335	3,251	-3
Sorghum	230	200	-13	10,252	9,290	-9
Soybeans	640	800	+25	74,105	72,993	-2
Sweet Potatoes	24	21	-12	97.9	94.4	-4
Winter Wheat	175	180	+3	41,078	41,362	+1
Hay ¹	450	450	---	63,511	64,709	+2
Sugarcane ^{1,2}	495	495	---	1,028.0	1,022.1	-1

¹Harvested acres. ²For sugar and seed.

Internet Access:

***For free automatic e-mail subscriptions to this publication go to**

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/sub-form.htm> or visit our homepage at

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/la/>